

Can we talk trash?

“ Hi
Amanda,

It's
Jennifer.

Do I
have news
for you...



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
**Wastewater Treatment
Division**

If it's not biodegradable, put it in the trash can. not the toilet. or recycle it.

“

Amanda, you're not going to believe this. Flushing a tampon down the toilet is a bad thing ...a really bad thing!

I just read about this on the Web. According to the sewer experts at King County, tampons can clog toilets or sewer lines, which can end up costing big bucks to get fixed. I've been flushing for years. Who knows if I've caused a mess.

They say it's bad for the environment too. Now, that's something to think about.

I'm serious about this. Tampons go in the trash. The same goes for the wrapper and the applicator. The whole thing goes in the trash. Do you believe that!? How come I never heard this before?

So? What's up with you?”



Stop flushing and start trashing!

It starts with simple changes!

Anything that isn't biodegradable should be put in the trash can instead of the toilet. Or it should be recycled when possible.

The theory goes, if you don't know, don't flush. And if there's plastic in it, definitely don't flush it.

Wastes that belong in the trash can instead of in the toilet include medications, cotton swabs, cotton balls, bandage wrappers, and wipes of any kind (baby wipes or cleaning cloths). Condoms too! They go in the trash. And, disposable diapers and minipads are definite trash items.

Beyond toilets

Flushing the wrong thing down the toilet can damage your household plumbing, your environment and your wastewater treatment system. But what goes down sinks and other household drains is also a waste issue. The disposal rules for toilets also apply to drains.

Have kids or pets? Put a lid on it!

If you're flushing trash down the toilet to keep it out of the reach of kids or pets, consider a trash can with a lid. The trash cans that open by stepping on a lever are good choices. You can buy them at local hardware stores or kitchen-and-bath stores. That way, if they get knocked over, there's a barrier between the trash and small fingers or busy noses.



*Hold it till you get to the can
The trash can, that is!*

The Trash Can List

If it isn't biodegradable, put it in the trash can instead of the toilet. Or recycle it. These wastes go in the trash:

- tampons
- condoms
- unused medications (place the original containers inside a plastic zip-lock bag before tossing them in the trash)
- cotton swabs
- cotton balls
- bandage wrappers
- wipes of any kind
- disposable diapers
- nursing pads
- mini- or maxi-pads

These common sense facts are brought to you by the sewer experts at the King County Wastewater Treatment Division to protect public health and the environment.

For an easy-to-use chart on how to get rid of other stuff you don't want or need, check out <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/community/oldstuff.htm>. Or call us at **206-684-1280**, and we'll send you the chart.



King County

Department of

Natural Resources and Parks

Wastewater Treatment Division

Community Relations

201 S. Jackson St., Suite 505

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

For this information in alternative formats, call 206-684-1280 or 711 (TTY)

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